



Cover Letter

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services BioTerrorism and Disease Surveillance Initiative

Introduction:

The Division of Public Health has been given the mandate to implement a system that facilitates the data entry, surveillance, analysis, and distribution of information regarding threats to the public health. The importance of such a system became evident following the acts of terrorism that occurred on September 11, 2001 and the weeks immediately following that fateful day when government officials were struggling to identify the extent and source of anthrax contamination within the U.S. postal system. The lack of current data and reliable communication facilities between federal, state, and local public health agencies contributed to confusion, misunderstanding, and alarm among citizens. In response, Governor Easley created the Terrorism Task Force to develop a Bio-Terrorism Risk Reduction and Response Plan for the State. The vision for the HAN system, and the enterprise architecture required to support it, was crafted by the Task Force.

In brief, the system will provide the following functionality:

- Browser-based data entry facility that can be used by the public health agencies to enter information that is currently captured manually on the N.C. Communicable Disease Report Card
- Integration of data stored the State's existing Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) and the National Center for Disease Control's (CDC's) Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) to identify potential threats of deadly infections and chemical exposures
- Automated notification to local, regional, and state health departments of imminent threats
- Public web site to provide timely and accurate information about public health threats to citizens
- Intranet to facilitate the sharing of information (e.g., lab test results, incident reports, on-line manuals, distance learning) among state public health agencies.

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- NC DPH BioTerrorism and Disease Surveillance Overview - PowerPoint Presentation
- NC DPH HAN Business Goals - PowerPoint Presentation



Glossary of Terms:

- Health Alert Network (HAN) – Web Based Application used to alert specified individuals of a notification that needs their attention. The alert can be issued via Pager, Fax, E-mail, or any combination.
- National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) – A Center for Disease Control (CDC) developed application that will facilitate the surveillance of reported positive disease test results and the reporting of these results to North Carolina local, county, and state officials, in addition to CDC officials.

Vendors wanting to participate in this initiative must be fully knowledgeable of the Center for Disease Control's system architecture, functionality, and data model for NEDSS and HAN, as well as HL7 standards.

You can find this information at www.cdc.gov and access to the NEDSS forum can be requested by e-mailing the CDC at cjhall@cdc.gov.

If you feel that your organization can offer value to the implementation of this initiative after reviewing the CDC material, please submit the following information to [mailto:Joe.Mattos@ncmail.net?subject=HAN Initiative Vendor Solicitation Request](mailto:Joe.Mattos@ncmail.net?subject=HAN+Initiative+Vendor+Solicitation+Request).

- Company Background and History
- Contact Information
- Application or Product Summary
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